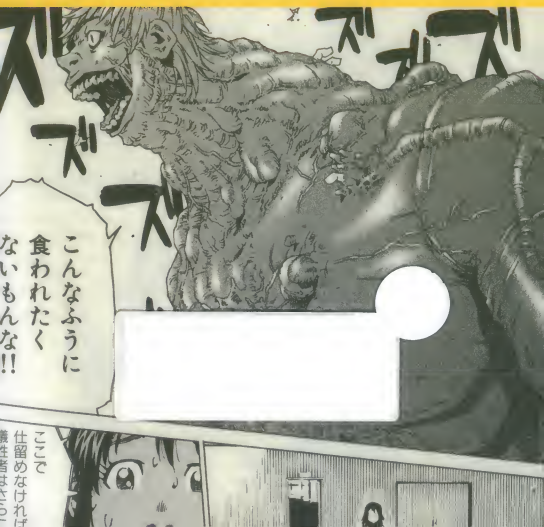


7 Billion Needles

Nobuaki Tadano

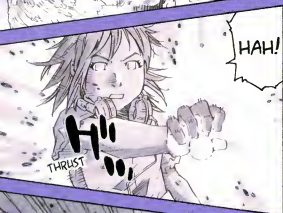
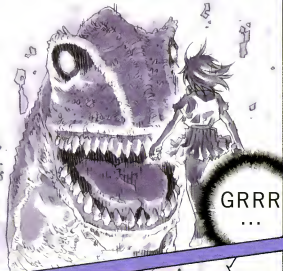
Volume 2

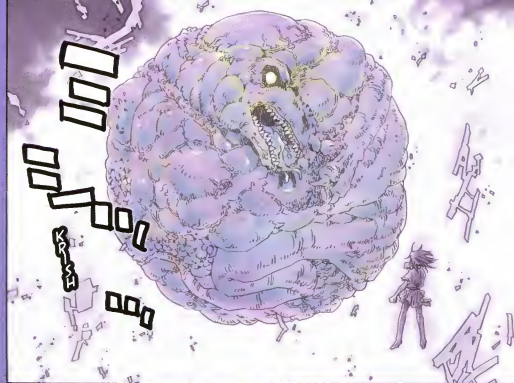
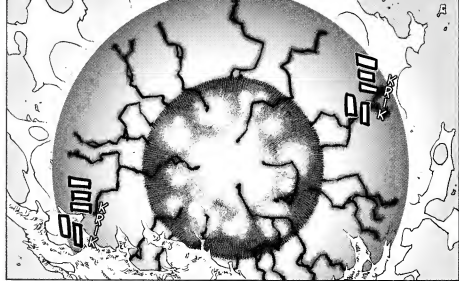


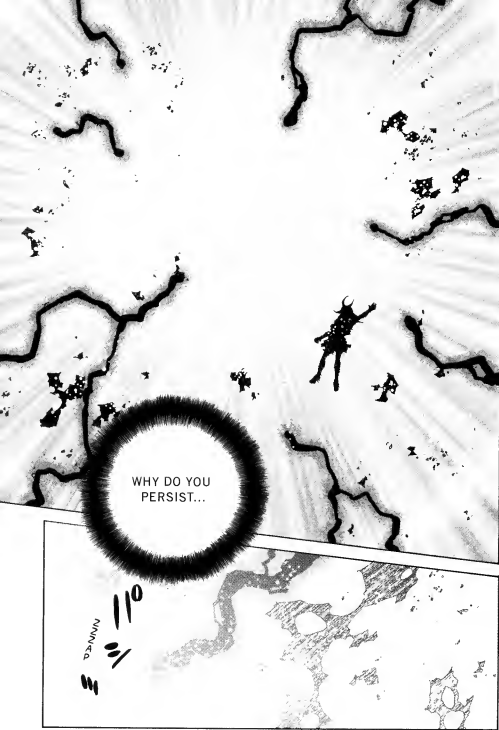
7 BILLION NEEDLES

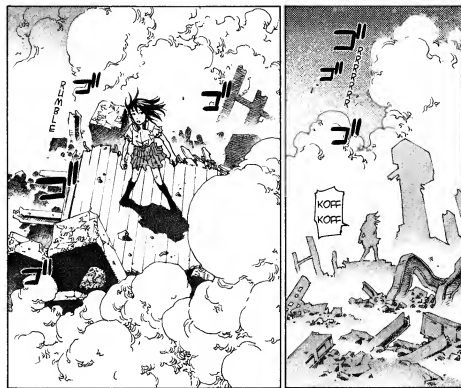
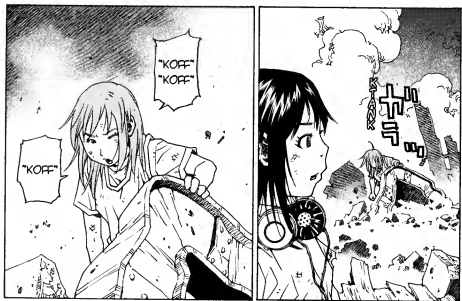
NOBUAKI TADANO

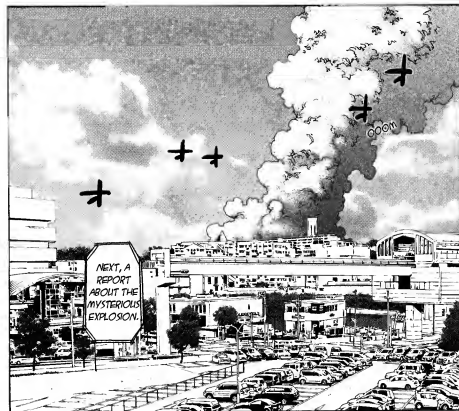
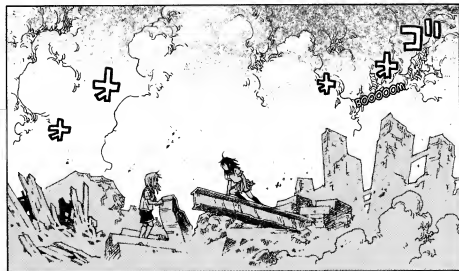
- 
7. Home Island 1
8. Childhood Friend 31
9. Another Disaster 61
10. Repetition 91
11. Alone 121
12. Conversation in Light ... 151

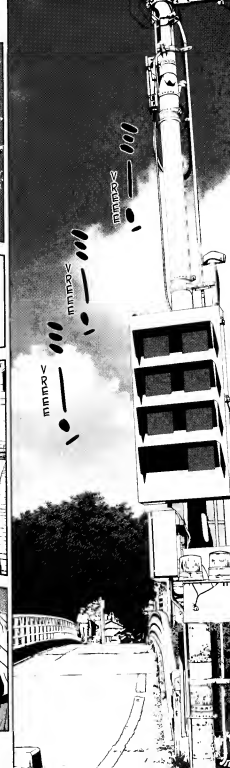
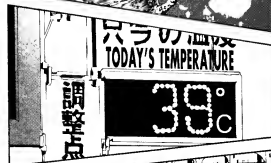
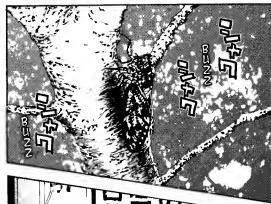
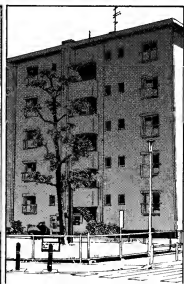
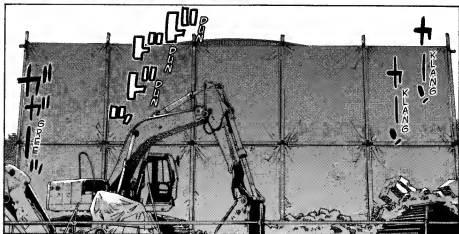
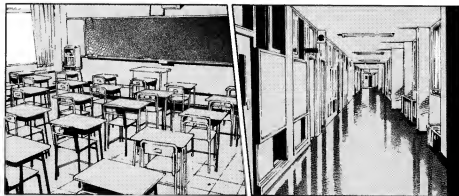


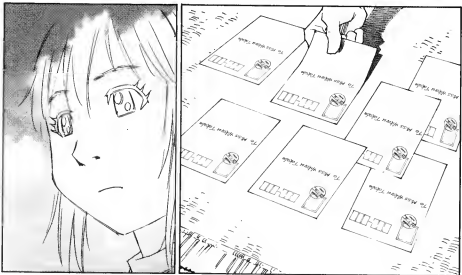


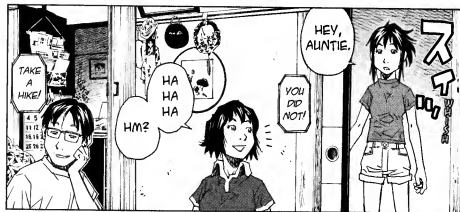
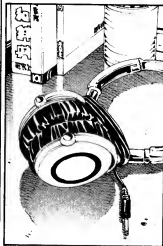


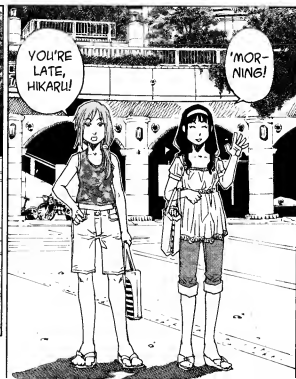




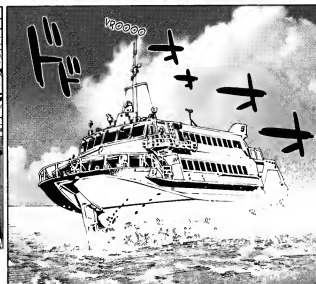
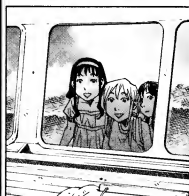


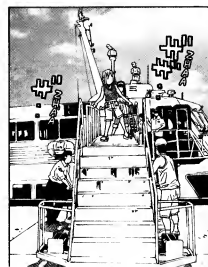
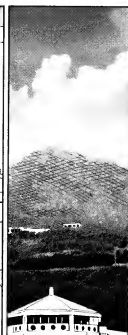
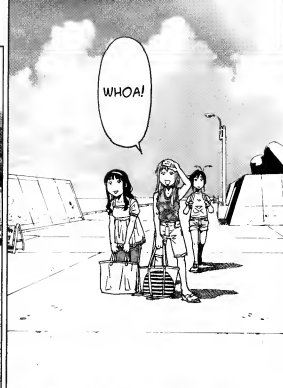


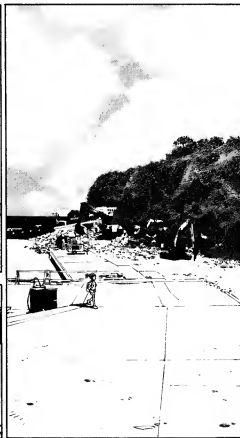
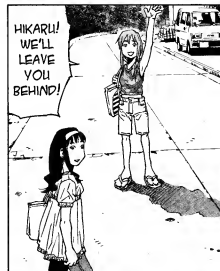
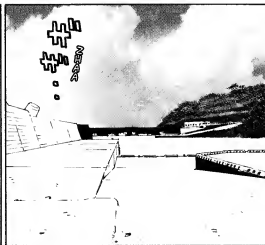
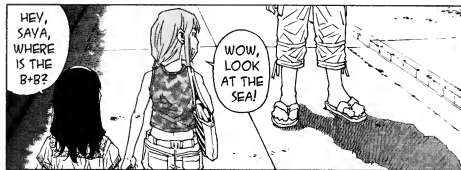


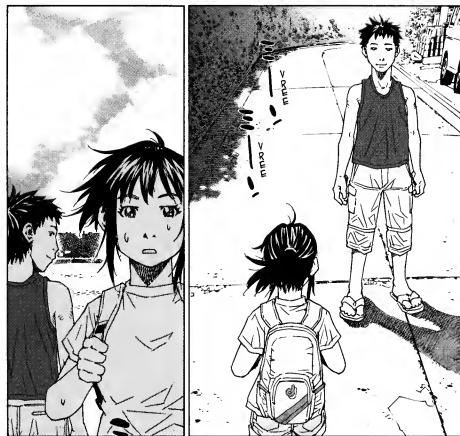
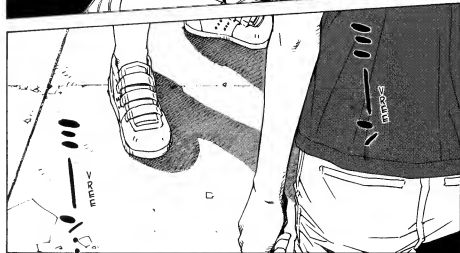














8. Childhood Friend





MASAYA?!

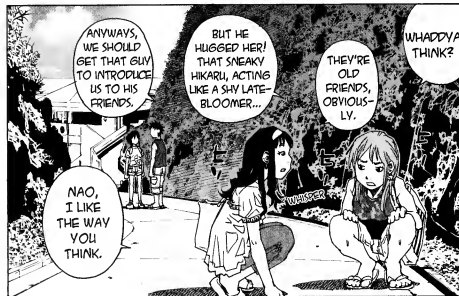


YOU
GOT MY
POST-
CARDS
?



DIDJA
HAVE TO
MAKE A
FIST?

YES.



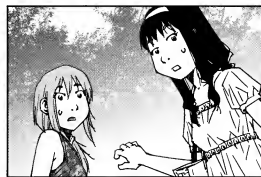
ANYWAYS,
WE SHOULD
GET THAT GUY
TO INTRODUCE
US TO HIS
FRIENDS.

BUT HE
HUGGED HER!
THAT SNEAKY
HIKARU, ACTING
LIKE A SHY LATE-
BLOOMER...

THEY'RE
OLD
FRIENDS,
OBVIOUS-
LY.

WHADDYA
THINK?

NAO,
I LIKE
THE WAY
YOU THINK.



HIKARU.

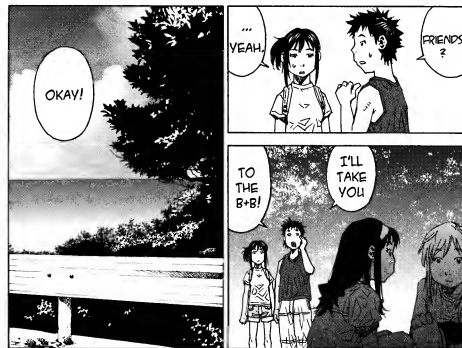
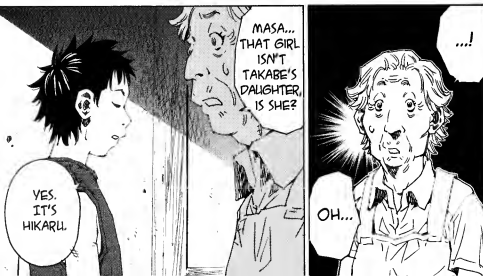
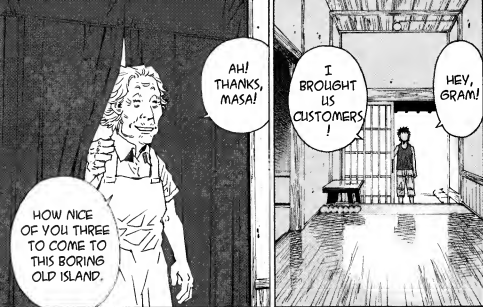


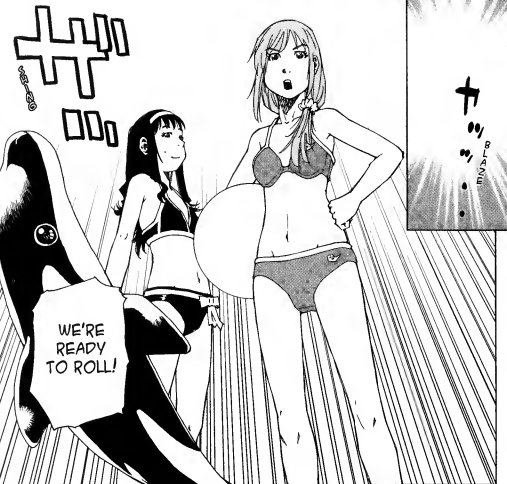
IT'S BEEN
A WHILE,
BUT
YOU SURE
HAVEN'T
CHANGED.

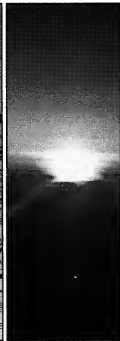
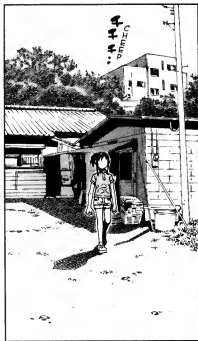
OUCH
...

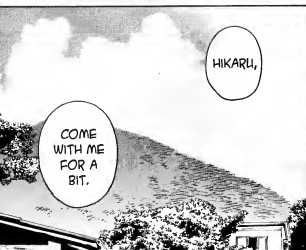


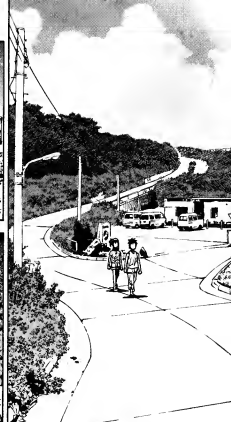
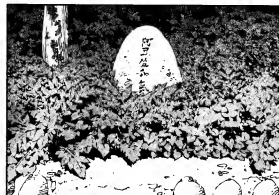
OW!!

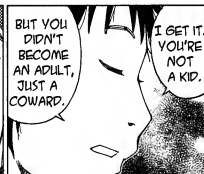


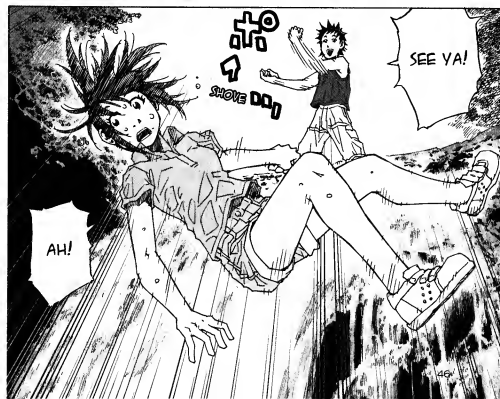
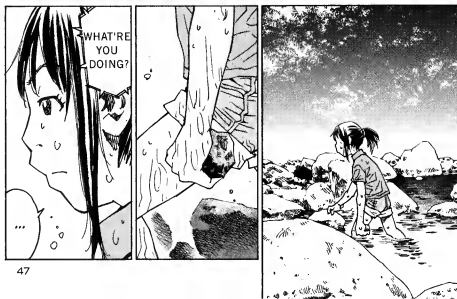


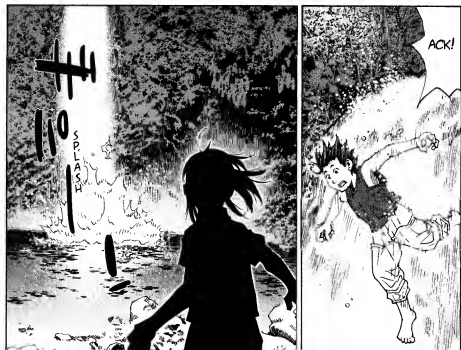
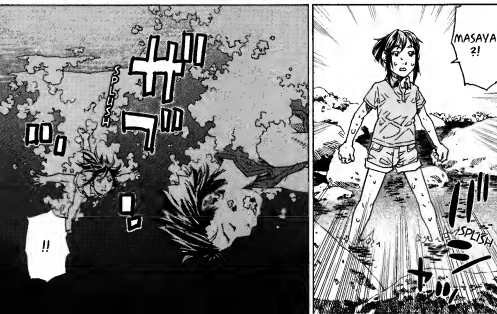
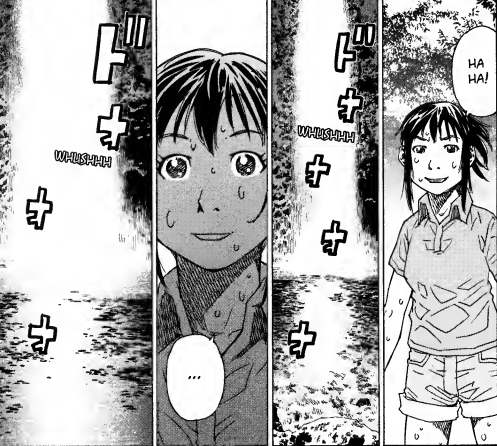






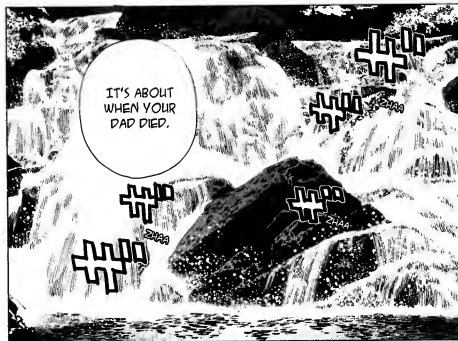


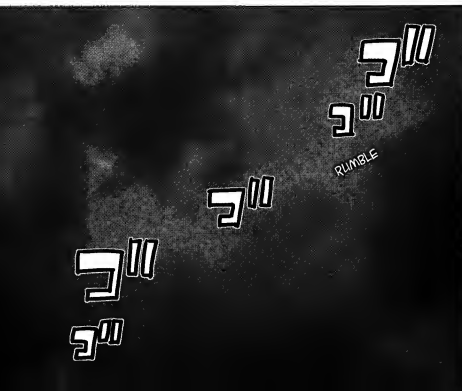
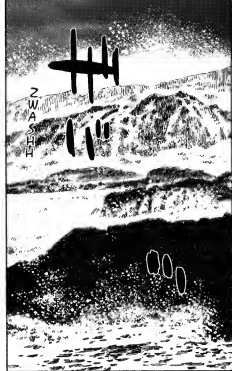


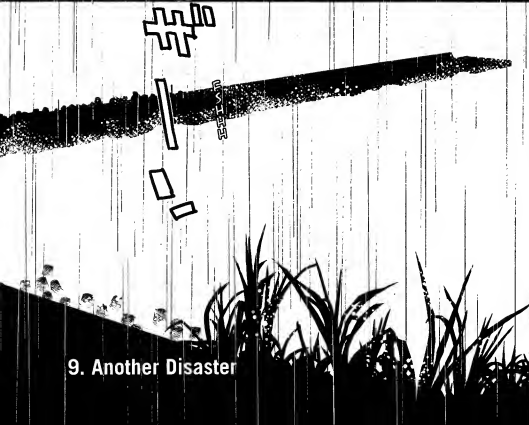




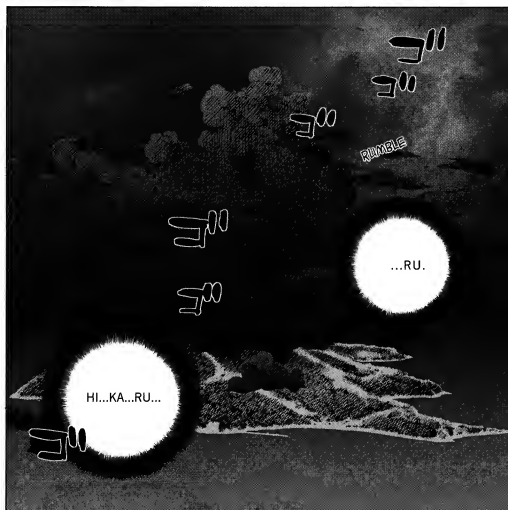


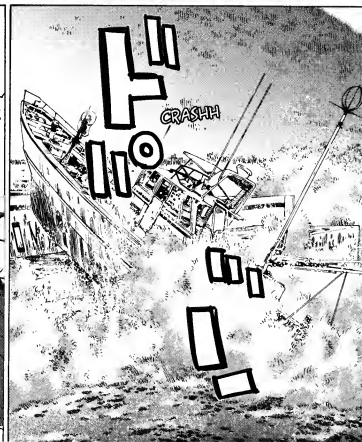
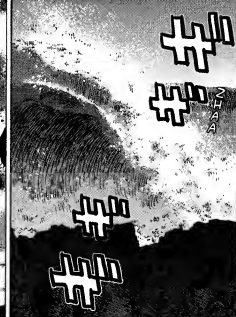
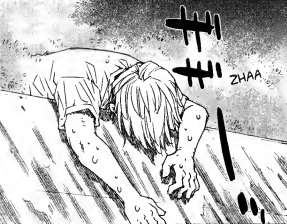






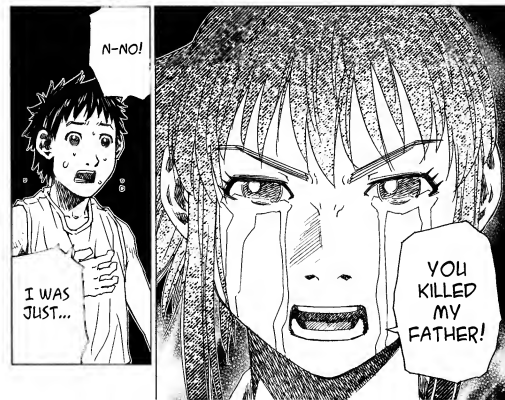
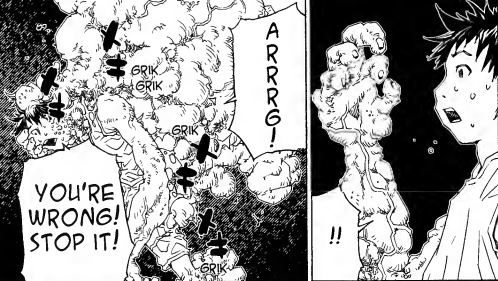
9. Another Disaster



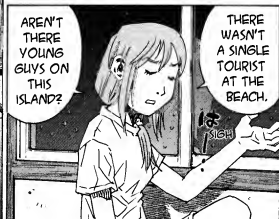
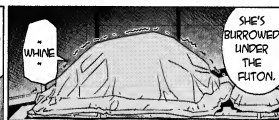
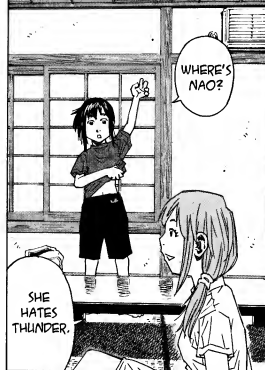


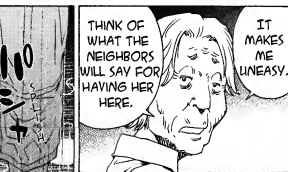


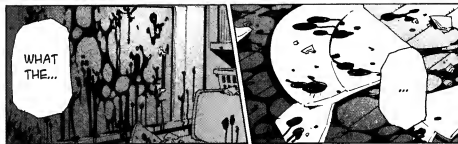




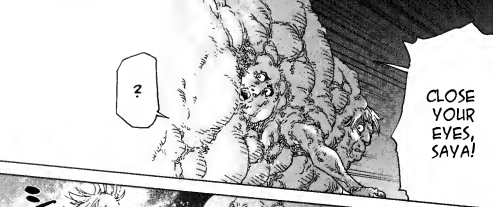




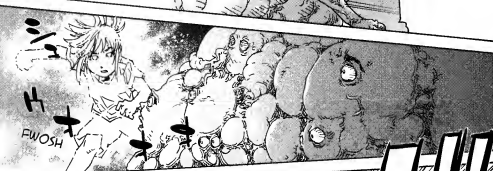






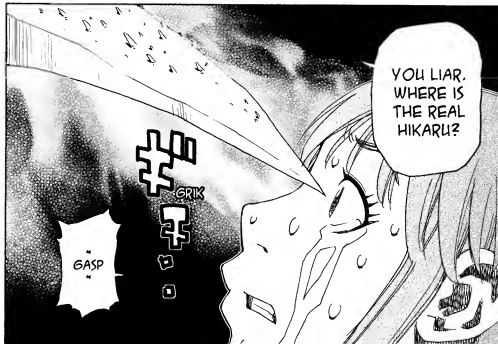


CLOSE
YOUR
EYES,
SAYA!

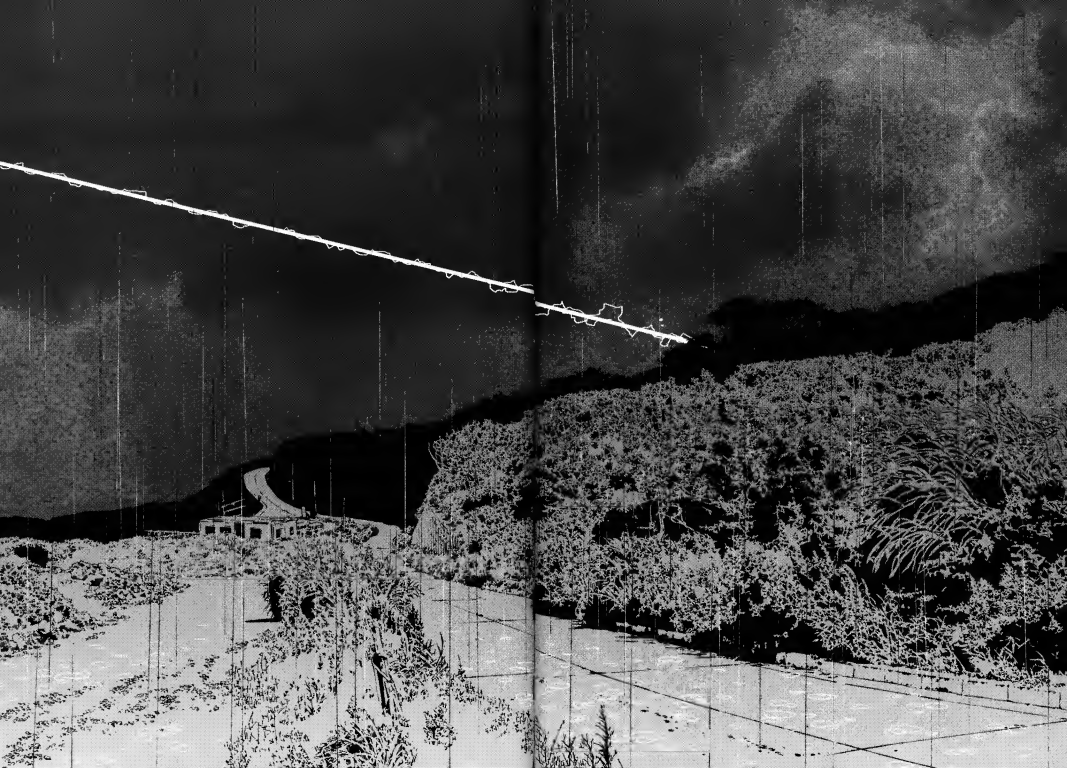


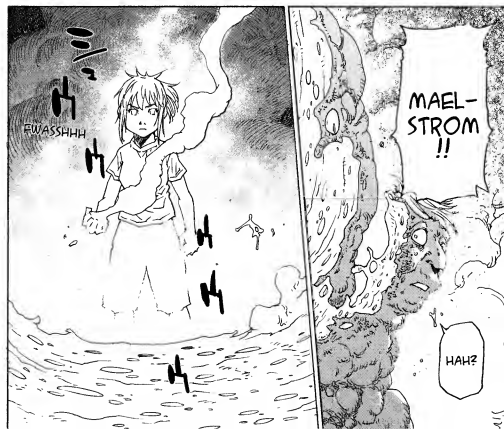
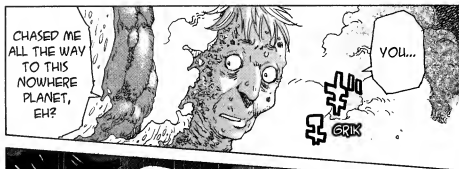
UHH...

UHH...

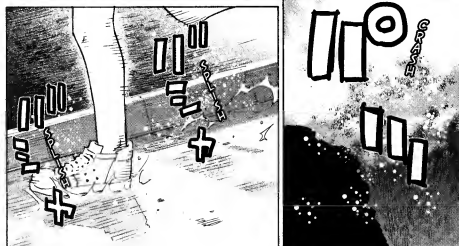
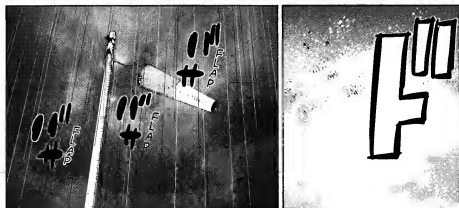


GASP





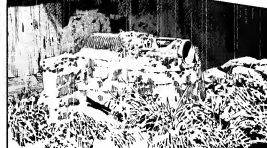
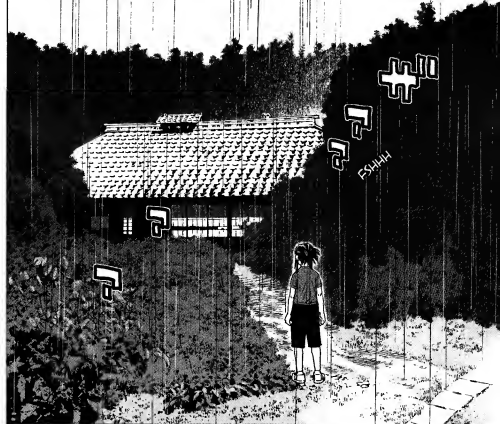


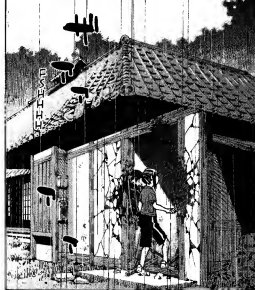
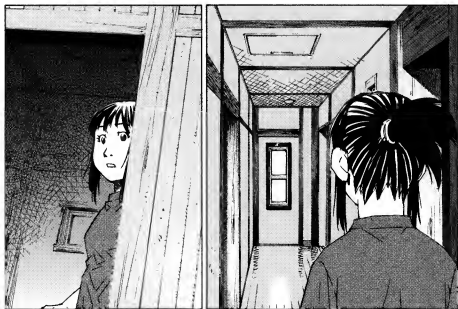


10. Repetition







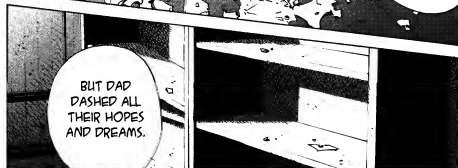






THEY SAID IT
WOULD MAKE
THEM RICH
FOR YEARS
TO COME.

THRILLED
ISLANDERS
HUNG ALL
THEIR HOPES
ON THE
ORE.



BUT DAD
DASHED ALL
THEIR HOPES
AND DREAMS.



YOUR
HEART.

AND
SO YOU
CLOSED
OFF



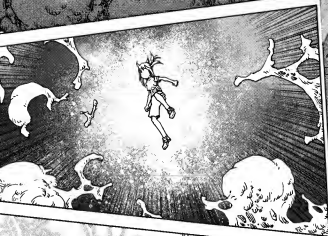
THE MAIN-
LANDERS
STOPPED
COMING, AND
DEVELOPMENT
CEASED.

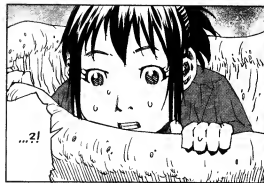
GET
OUT!!

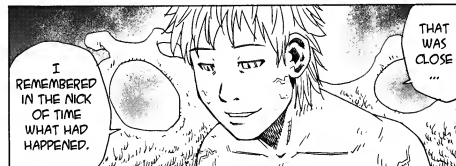
THE ANGRY
ISLANDERS
HARASSED US.
DAD DIED
IN AN
ACCIDENT...

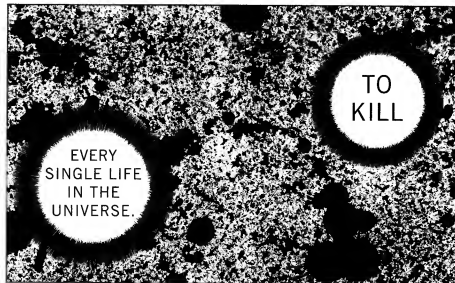
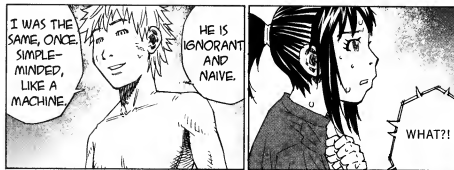


DAMN
IT!











ONCE
THE STORY ENDS
ON ONE PLANET,
WE FORGET ALL
THAT HAPPENED
AND HEAD TO
ANOTHER ONE.



WHEN
YOU SUCCEED,
I MERELY REGENERATE
ELSEWHERE, AND
CONTINUE MY
KILLING SPREE
AS IF NOTHING'S
HAPPENED.



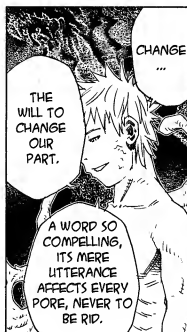
I TRY TO
DEVOUR EVERY
BEING IN SIGHT
ON A PLANET,
YOU PURSUE
ME AND TRY TO
KILL ME.



FINE.

I WON'T
ATTACK HIM.
LEND ME
YOUR BODY,
I WISH TO
CONVERSE.

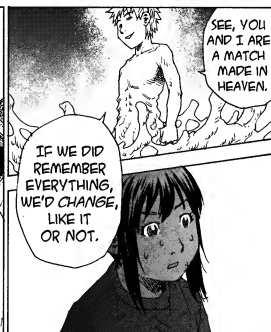
HIKARU
...



THE
WILL TO
CHANGE
OUR
PART.

CHANGE
...

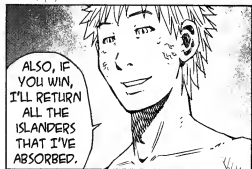
A WORD SO
COMPELLING,
IT'S MERE
LITTERANCE
AFFECTS EVERY
PORE, NEVER TO
BE RID.

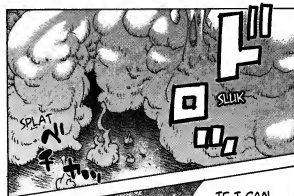


IF WE DID
REMEMBER
EVERYTHING,
WE'D CHANGE,
LIKE IT
OR NOT.



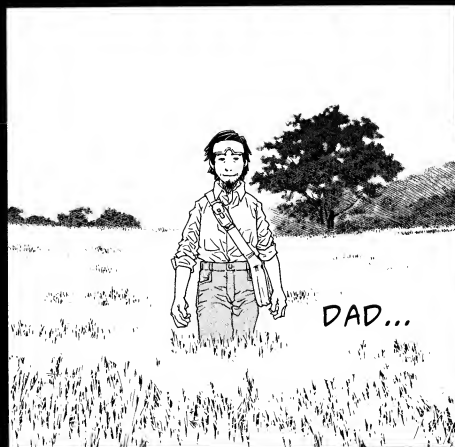
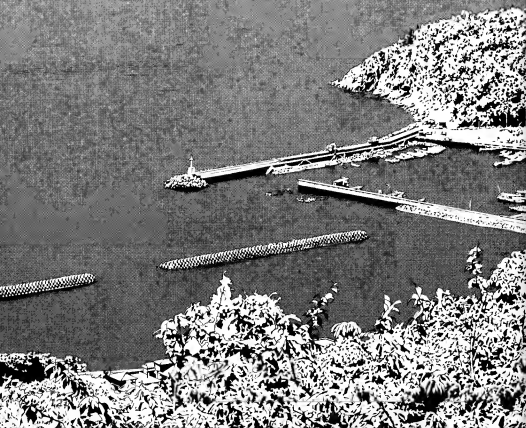
SEE, YOU
AND I ARE
A MATCH
MADE IN
HEAVEN.

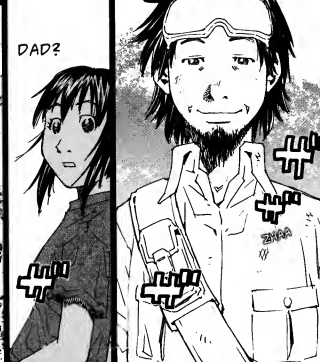






11. Alone





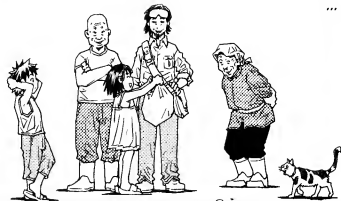


HOW HAD I
FORGOTTEN
THAT, TOO,
ALL THIS TIME?

ALL THE
ISLANDERS
BELIEVED IN
DAD'S DREAM.

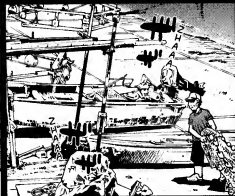
BUT I
NEVER
FELT
LONELY.

AFTER
MOM DIED,
IT WAS JUST
ME AND DAD
...



BUT IF I
FREEZE 'EM
I CAN
HAVE 'EM
WHENEVER.

PROCESS
AND MIX IN
THE LITTLE
FISH THAT
DON'T
SELL



ACK!
IT'S
COLD,
HIKARU!

HEY,
MASAYA
!

HA
HA!



YEAH,
I HEARD
!

THE MAYOR
IS USING HIS
INFLUENCE
TO ALLOW
PROSPECT
DIGGING.



HELLO!

HELLO,
DOC!



HURRY UP
AND FIND THAT
BLACK ORE
SO WE CAN
LIVE IN
COMFORT!

IT'S
FINE, IT'S
FINE!

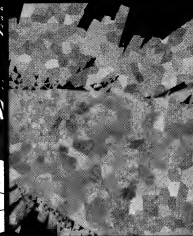
THANK
YOU FOR
ALL
THIS FISH.

WAS I
REALLY
SO
HAPPY
?

THAT'S
ME
WHEN
I WAS
LITTLE.





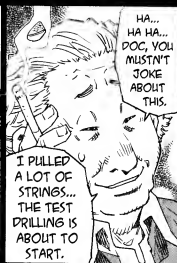




HOW DARE YOU!!



I DON'T THINK ANY WILL BE FOUND.



HA... HA HA... DOC, YOU MUSTN'T JOKE ABOUT THIS.

I PULLED A LOT OF STRINGS... THE TEST DRILLING IS ABOUT TO START.



DOC.

WHAT DID YOU JUST SAY?



I'M VERY SORRY.



YOU HAVE ANY IDEA HOW MUCH WE'VE GIVEN YOU?

YOU DAZZLED US WITH DREAMS ...



MR. MAYOR, AFTER VARIOUS TESTS...

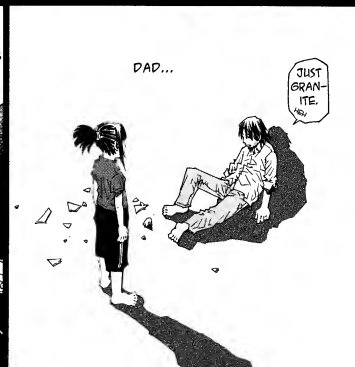
I HAVE NOT BEEN ABLE TO FIND A BLACK ORE BED ON THIS ISLAND.



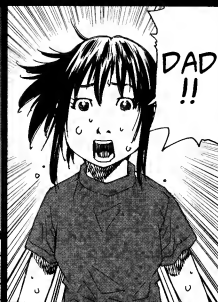


THE
ISLANDERS
STARTED
HARASSING US
AFTER THAT
DAY.

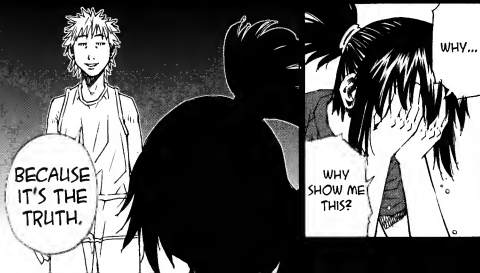








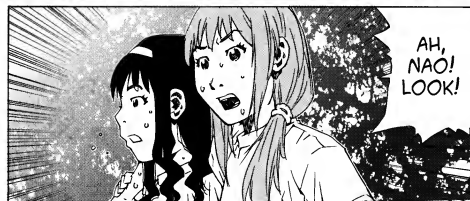
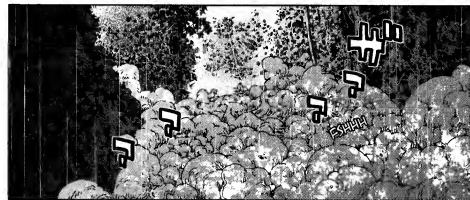
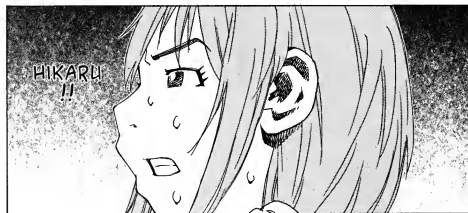


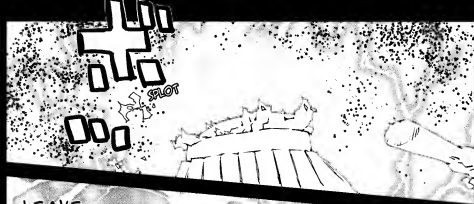




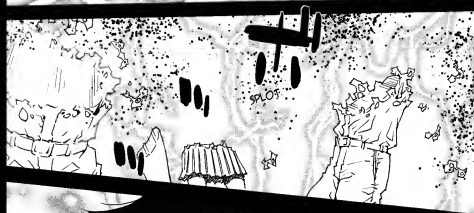
IF YOU
PUT THESE ON,
YOU WON'T
HEAR A THING.







LEAVE
ME
ALONE...



ALONE!

LEAVE
ME

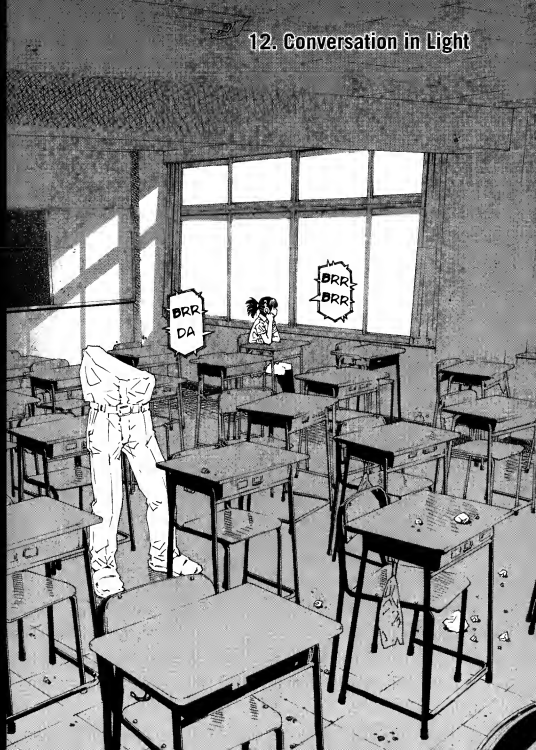


BRR
BRR
BRR

BRR
BRR
BRR



LEAVE
ME
ALONE.



12. Conversation in Light



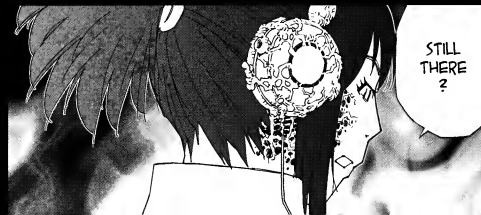
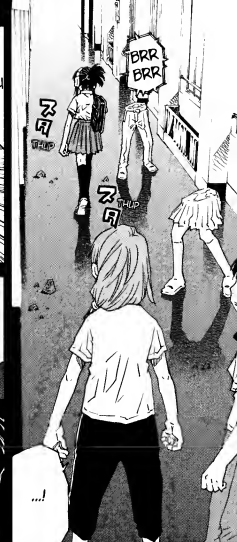
I WIN,
HORIZON
...

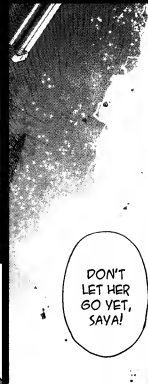
JUST A
LITTLE
LONGER,
AND HIKARU
WILL BE
DROWNED
IN FEAR.













YOU'RE
NOT
ALONE.



HIKARU
...



S-
STAY
AWAY!
!

I SAID
LEAVE
ME
ALONE!



I WAS
ACTUALLY
HOPING
TO END IT
MYSELF.
CRUSHED WITH
DESPAIR...

RIGHT
BEFORE
I DIED,



BUT I
COULDN'T
DO IT.



HIKARU!



"SOB"

"SOB"



HIKARU,
YOU WILL
BE ALONE
FOREVER!!

LIES!!

??!

LET'S GO,
HIKARU.
THERE'S
NOTHING
TO FEAR.

I AM
HERE,
TOO.

HIKARU.

THAT'S
WHY
YOU'RE
NOT
ALONE,

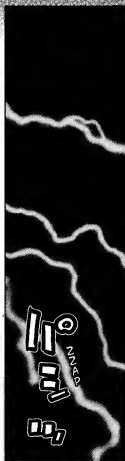
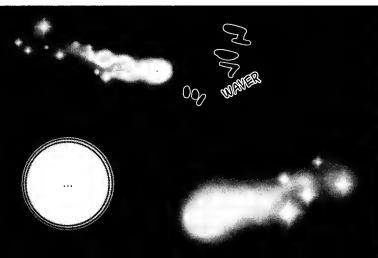
BUT YOU'RE
GONE!
YOU LEFT ME
BEHIND!

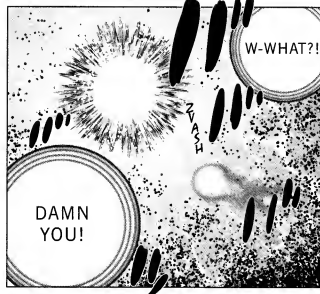
BECAUSE
I HAD
YOU.

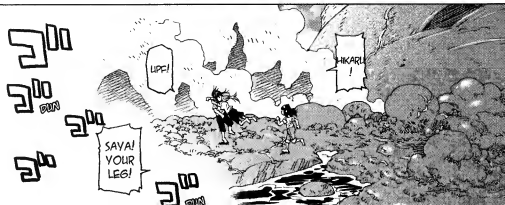
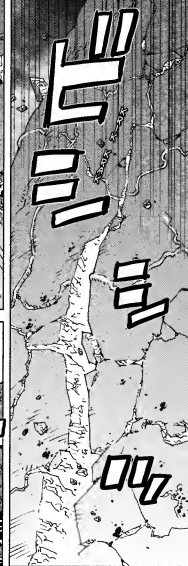
BECAUSE
OF YOU,
MY DAUGHTER,
I WANTED
TO TRY LIVING
ONCE MORE.

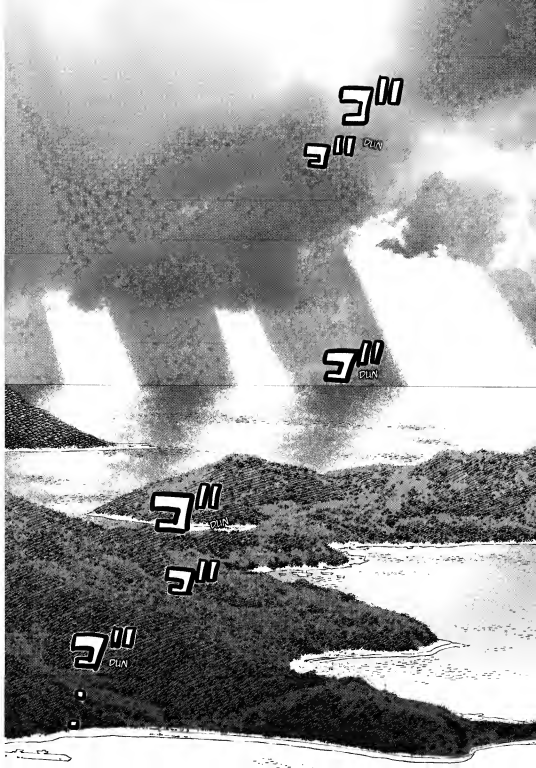
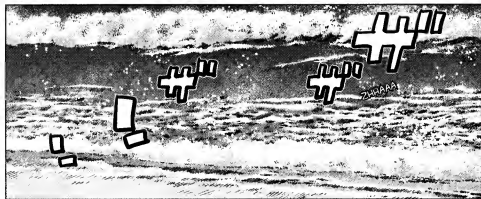
YOU EVEN
HAVE A
FAMILY AND
HOME
WAITING
FOR YOU.

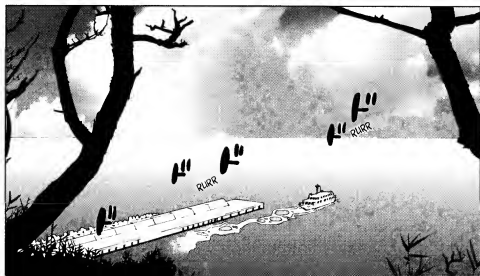
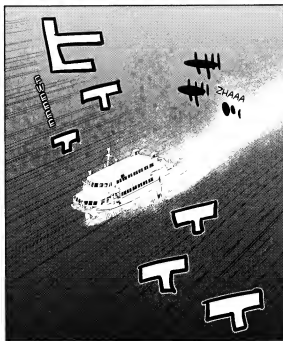
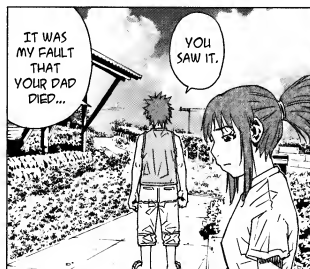
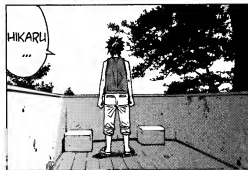
INSTEAD
YOU HAVE
FRIENDS
NOW.













SO WE
MEET
AGAIN,
HIKARU.

SORRY.
IT'S
MAEL-
STROM.



THERE'S
SOMEONE
I HAVE TO
INTRODUCE
TO YOU.

HUH?
WHAT'RE
YOU
TALKING
ABOUT?



WHAT
MY DAD
SAID...

YES?

HEY,
HORIZON.



I WANTED TO
TRY LIVING
ONCE MORE.

BECAUSE
OF YOU



NO...
NO...

AFTER
SOME
THOUGHT,

THIS
HANDLING
OF THE
MATTER
SEEMED
MOST
ACTUAL.



IT WAS ALL
A DREAM!
I'LL WAKE
UP FROM
THE SCHOOL
TRIP...

N-N-NO!
I MUST BE
HEARING
THINGS...
DREAMING!

UNABLE
TO GRASP
THE
SITUATION,
HER BRAIN
HAS
DISCARDED
LOGIC.

UH,
HORIZON,
WHAT DO YOU
CALL THE STATE
SHE'S
EXPRESSING
?



...I DON'T
KNOW
WHAT
YOU
MEAN.

HEH...

WHAT-
EVER.



WAS
THAT
YOU?



WHY
?

BY THE WAY,
I SHOULD
APOLOGIZE
FIRST.

7 BILLION NEEDLES

End of Volume 2



Kick the Kitten.

